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PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU'S VISITS
TO
FLOOD-STRICKEN COUNTIES OF ROMANIA

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PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISITS TO FLOOD-STRICKEN COUNTIES

In order to inspect on the spot the scope of the disaster caused by the floods which starting May 12, 1970, were sweeping almost all Romania for several days, Nicolae Ceaușescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, together with other Party and State leaders, undertook an operative tour of several counties of Romania, in the latter part of May.

Everywhere - in the factories and mills, at agricultural units as well as in the towns and villages they were visiting - the Party and State leaders were greeted with affection, warmth and great enthusiasm by the population with whom they consulted with regard to the most efficient measures to be taken in order to fastest do away with the effects of the serious losses inflicted by the devastating floodings.

On May 15 and 16, President Nicolae Ceaușescu visited the counties of Cluj, Alba, Mureș, Satu Mare and Bihor in North-West Romania - areas which were seriously affected by the inundations; on May 22 he visited the Brăila and Galatz counties where ample actions had been undertaken to prevent and halt floodings by the Danube, while on May 26 and 27, the visit continued to the counties of Buzău, Vrancea, Vaslui, Jassy, Botcșani, Suceava, Neamț and Bacău.

The visits by President Nicolae Ceaușescu and the other Party and State leaders have been a new and telling proof of the strong link between the Party and the people, of the socialist unity of the whole nation.

SPEECH BY PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AT CIVIC RALLY
IN JASSY

Dear Comrades,

Allow me please to extend to you, to all the residents of the Jassy Municipality, and county, a hearty salute from the Party's Central Committee, from the State Council and Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Our visit to this part of the country proceeds under special conditions; Nature unbridled raging waters which have flooded scores of towns, hundreds upon hundreds of villages, hundreds of thousands of hectares under crops, causing very big damages.

I have toured many of the counties and localities ravaged by waters. I must say that what I have seen in these localities is much beyond anything that could be imagined. The losses occurred during the almost 20 days since the floods started are tremendous. But what I would like to stress here, in Jassy, is the fact that in spite of all the damages, of all the sufferings endured by thousands and scores of thousands of people, the unflinching will is manifest of our entire people to cope with all the difficulties, to overcome the hardships of Nature and to ensure the further normal development of our entire social activity.

I have visited today the counties of Buzău, Vrancea, Vaslui and Jassy. All of them have suffered in a way or another, from the raging waters. In spite of all this, the same as in all the other places I have been to of late, - here, too, I have noted invariable will and determination to ensure a fastest resumption of normal economic and social activity. I am sure, comrades, that we will manage in a short time to ensure a smooth run of activity in industry, in agriculture, in education and science, in all

compartments of social life.

In all the localities we have visited, a hearty and also resolute reception was extended to us by all the citizens. Their expressions of sympathy for us, for the Central Committee are a mighty expression of our entire people's unshakable unity around the Party, of the unflinching belief of the working people in town and country that, led by the communists, by the Romanian Communist Party and its leadership, they will surmount all the difficulties and will ensure the fulfilment of this year's plan, and the implementation of the tasks for the entire period of the five-year plan (1965-1970), laying thus a sound foundation for the next five-year plan, for the many-sided development of our socialist homeland.

I want to thank you, all the residents we have met today, for their expressions of confidence in the Party and in its leadership, and I also want to thank our entire people which is working now heroically and resolutely for surmounting the difficulties. We view this as another proof of the profound devotion of all the citizens in this country to the Party, to our socialist homeland. We are sure that our unity will grow still stronger, that it will become even more powerful. No force in the world can prevent the Romanian people's advance to socialism and communism.

From here, from Jassy, I want to extend the heartiest thanks to all the citizens of our country who have offered - each according to his or her possibilities - relief to the flood victims. Everybody has given in keeping with personal possibilities, but all this taken together has totalled hundreds of millions of lei collected, as well as many material assets which would surely ease the sufferings of the flood victims. This prompt reaction and this solidarity are also a telling proof of the unflinching unity and of the lofty socialist consciousness of our nation.

Our Army has done its duty on the front line in this battle with the floods, it has given proof of great heroism. Therefore I want to extend from here, from Jassy, warm congratulations and thanks to all our armymen for the way in which they have carried out their mission, their duty to the people.

The patriotic detachments and the youth military training units have also got into action. Alongside of the Army, of all the residents in the flooded localities, they have given proof of heroism and self-denial, demonstrating to the full that they are strong formations on which our people can rely in any circumstance. I want to congratulate these detachments and wish them to fulfil always in the best of conditions their lofty duty to the people, to our socialist homeland.

True comrades, we have great difficulties to face at present. But we will certainly surmount them. We are firmly convinced that by the joint work of our whole people, the wounds inflicted by the natural disaster on the country will be cured in a short time. As a matter of fact, you well know, comrades, that our people has endured many sufferings and had to face many storms along the times - and has always succeeded in surmounting them. Overcoming big obstacles, our nation has developed and grown ever stronger and more united. We are sure that the present difficulties inflicted on us by Nature will also be overcome by the unity of the people. We will rehabilitate all the flood-stricken localities, factories and agricultural cooperatives, we will make them even stronger, we will see to it that they may realize an even greater output than until now.

We know the feelings of our people, we know its confidence in the Party, but the expressions these last few days have again and again confirmed to me how united is our whole socialist nation around the Party, how powerful a

force is our socialist system which has widely opened the path to a decent life for the people, and has rendered it invincible.

We also were aware of the prestige and sympathy enjoyed by the Romanian people, by our homeland, in the world arena; but the expressions of sympathy, of solidarity and support from scores upon scores of peoples throughout the world - from the socialist countries, from the other countries, from numerous heads of state and politicians, from numerous international organizations, from foreign economic organizations and companies, from citizens of various states - have proved once again how high is this prestige. It has been evident once more how much sympathy our people enjoys internationally, owing to the Marxist-Leninist policy promoted by our Party and State, a policy of friendship and collaboration with all the socialist countries, with all the anti-imperialist forces, with all peoples of the world. I wish to convey from here, from Jassy, thanks to all those who during these days of hard trial for our people, expressed their feelings of friendship and solidarity, and granted their support. We express our thanks and assure them of our friendship and esteem. We view all this also as an expression of the peoples' wish to live in peace and cooperation.

I do not intend now to dwell on international questions, but I can't help referring to the fact that these last few days, in spite of all difficulties our country has been experiencing, we found the necessary time to meet with the Soviet comrades. The visit I made, together with other comrades in Moscow, the interviews with Comrade Brezhnev and with other leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, are meant to develop still more the relations of collaboration and friendship between our parties and peoples. This meeting had been established earlier, already during the visit we paid to the USSR last

autumn. It was settled precisely in April, and took place at about the established date. We considered it is proper and necessary to pay this visit. We went to this meeting with the sincere wish to contribute to the development of the relations between our parties and peoples, to the strengthening of cooperation between the communist and workers' parties, between all socialist countries. We are convinced that this accords with the interests of all socialist states - ergo of also Romania and the Soviet Union - with the interests of all communist parties, of the international revolutionary movement, of all the anti-imperialist forces, of the entire mankind speaking up for international peace and collaboration.

We will continue to firmly apply, both in our home and foreign policy, the directives of the Tenth Party Congress for building the many-sidedly developed socialist society, which accords both with the fundamental interests of the Romanian people and of the general cause of socialism and peace all over the world. We will also continue to most resolutely militate for the development of cooperation with all socialist countries, to consistently act so that the existing disagreements and divergencies should become a matter of the past. We are convinced that this can be achieved and we will steadfastly militate for ensuring the strengthening of the unity of all the socialist countries. We also wish to develop relations with the communist and workers' parties in the spirit of the Marxist-Leninist principles, of equal rights, of observance of each party's right to independently shape its policy; we consider that it is only on this basis that the general progress of the international communist and working-class movement can be ensured and the international solidarity of all working people strengthened. We will further act and make our contribution to the extinction of the hotbeds of war in Indochina, in the Middle East, to the re-establishment of

peace in those areas, the development of international co-operation, to the observance by all states of the rules of international law. We will most firmly act for the triumph in inter-state relations of the principles of equal rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, for the ensuring of each people's right to decide on its development without any outside interference.

We are fully convinced that the forces speaking up today for collaboration and for peace are more powerful than the imperialist forces, that acting jointly, firmly and resolutely they will ensure peace. The Romanian people will make its full contribution to the defence of peace, to the development of international cooperation and to the victory of socialism.

Dear Comrades,

Everywhere - in the counties we have visited today as well as in other regions of the country where we visited more recently - many of you, many of those we have met, were chanting my name. I view it as an expression of confidence in our Central Committee, in the Party's policy, in the fact that in the work entrusted to me by the Party and the people I am striving to creditably fulfil the tasks. I wish to assure you that nothing is more important to me than the interests of the Party, of the people, than the struggle for the triumph of socialism and communism in our homeland, throughout the world ! I shall do my utmost to this end.

In concluding, allow me, please comrades, to wholeheartedly wish you much success in your activity, an activity which this year will have to grow still more intensive, will have to be carried on still more forcefully. I wish you to carry out in the best of conditions everything you have set yourselves to do ! Good health happiness to all !

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